



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

AUG 27 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: Limit on Good of the Service Waiver Policy

Title 10 of the United States Code establishes joint officer personnel requirements to ensure officers serve in military assignments beyond their own Service. The law mandates that every officer shall complete a joint duty assignment prior to promotion to O-7 (10 U.S.C. § 619A), unless that requirement is waived as specifically authorized by law. In addition, effective October 1, 2007, officers selected for promotion to the grade of O-7 must be designated as joint specialty officers.

The Department is committed to fostering officer development and assignment practices that ensure joint experience becomes a fundamental characteristic of those judged best qualified for promotion. Joint service is extremely important for future promotion and immediate steps must be taken to ensure that our best-qualified officers are assigned to the joint environment prior to promotion consideration for flag/general officer rank.

Under current policy, Good of the Service waivers of the requirement to complete a joint duty assignment prior to promotion to O-7 are limited to no more than 10 percent of the officers selected for promotion to O-7. This 10 percent limitation has become a floor rather than a ceiling. Because this limitation has outlived its usefulness, I am revoking it. In the future, Good of the Service waivers shall only be approved in cases involving exceptional or unusual circumstances. I expect the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, as part of the selection board approval process, to justify fully approval of such waivers. This policy change seeks to ensure the Department selects the best-qualified officers for promotion to O-7.



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